

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

David Sidransky

Serial No. 09/164,764

Filed: October 1, 1998

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) Examiner: Anna Pawul

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) Group Art Unit: 1643

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) Atty. Dkt. No. 01107.76459

For: DETECTION OF HYPERMUTABLE NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCE IN TISSUE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following amendment prior to the examination of this application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1- 22 and add new claims 23-34.

B1
-23. A method for detecting cancer of an organ in a specimen external to the organ comprising the steps of:

testing a plurality of microsatellite markers in the specimen to determine a microsatellite marker length alteration relative to a control sample, wherein a microsatellite marker length alteration in the specimen relative to the control sample indicates the presence of a cancer in an organ which drains into the specimen.

24. The method of claim 1 wherein the specimen is selected from the group consisting of: blood, urine, sputum, bile, stool, cervical smears, saliva, tears, cerebral spinal fluid, and lymph nodes.

25. The method of claim 1 wherein the length alteration is an expansion of repeat units within the microsatellite marker.